

Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee

August 1, 2018

Minutes

Chairperson Tom Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of reflection by Phil Mowry to remember the ones who are protecting distant shores.

Committee Members present: Tom Cannon, Charleen Thompson, Jack Santaniello Angelo Renguso, Amanda Kohout, James Munoz, Janet Perkins, Phil Mowry, Mike Kipp and Jim Thurman

Guests Welcomed Hazen Blodgett (ToM Liason), Barbara Dement

Minutes of June, 2018: Minutes were approved as transmitted

Minutes of Veterans Breakfast: Minutes were approved as transmitted

Guest Barbara Dement thanked us for inviting her to the meeting. Spoke that Veterans, Country and Freedom are all important to her and will be glad to help in any way to reach veterans.

Old Business:

1: Subcommittee 1. Awareness: Amanda asked for a review of breakfast and we all agree we need to evolve it. Her committee plans to meet mid-August to work on rest of the year plans.

2: Subcommittee 2. Resources and Collaboration: Larry has a broken foot so was unable to attend meeting. Tom spoke on his behalf. Spoke with Hazen about the new H.R. person and if she had he had a chance to look over our proposal for

hiring veterans' policy. Hazen asked it to be resent to him and they would put it on their agenda.

3: Subcommittee 3. Communications Dessi was unable to attend meeting. Tom and Charleen reminded everyone of the Purple Heart event being held the next evening- Thursday Aug 2nd. Dessi and Charleen wanted everyone to meet at Purple Heart sign for a photo shoot at 4 pm and then everyone would be invited to Seaboard for a reception hosted by Dessi and Charleen. The Veteran of the Year program is in the works. Applications for Nominations are being distributed. They are speaking with Mayor about a possible Mayors Medal to be awarded to the Veteran of the Year and tying the award ceremony in with Veterans Day and Weekend Events in November of 2018. It was suggested by Barbara Dement and Amanda that subcommittee bring their top 3 choices for the award and let the MVAC committee then vote on the winner from those. Some nominations were suggested and members were told to get a form and send in their choices to the subcommittee.

4: Subcommittee 4: Executive: This committee met in July. We reviewed budget, discussed ideas for Veterans Day events and also discussed the Labor Day weekend parade.

New Business: A signup sheet was passed for the parade for riders and people to man our table on that Saturday. We will have a several vehicles in parade. Banner being made to two people to walk with ahead of our group.

We have been asked to participate in November with Matthews First Thursday event. This is in the planning stages.

Tom and Phil met with Mayor Paul Bailey and Commissioner John Urban about how we can plan a Veterans weekend event. There was great discussion by Phil Mowry about the MVAC Bylaws and our mission. He feels we should be less about doing and more about advising. He wants to see a strong reliance on American Legion to actually be the doers. Amanda and Janet spoke up that it needed to be that we also help bring in other clubs and groups in the area to partner with for veterans events.

It was also suggested that we vet a program to help when a flag needs to be retired. Create a place to bring the flags.

Veteran's weekend events were suggested and again are in planning stages. Events mentioned were a ceremony with the Mayor, a breakfast hosted by the Masons group, a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the end of WW 1. Tom will put together a proposal for event to give Town of Matthews at our MVAC Quarterly update meeting.

New business was also brought forward with a discussion on how do we handle status of a former chairperson. Do we have a position of Chair Emeritus? Janet suggested we come up with several ideas on proper way to handle and discuss again at next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Jack went over the budget. We spent \$3200 last year. The Town has given us \$2500 this fiscal year. We had \$434.74 in unused donations from last year. This year we have had a donation from Seaboard for \$310.00 and a donation from Matthews Rotary Club for \$500 .00

Chairperson /Vice Chairperson Comments- See New Business

Comments-Town Council Liaison: Hazen left before meeting was over so was not there for open comments.

Open Comments: Barbara Dement spoke again at this time and stated that we are an advisory committee and we need to advise the Town on what the Town should be doing for Veterans. She also suggested we have the Stumptown Park name changed to a Matthews Veterans Park. She feels calling it Stumptown is too slang. Charleen addressed that the name Stumptown is a part of our town history since we were called Stumptown, and we were called Fullwood before we became Matthews and that we should not forget our history. Charleen and Janet spoke up that we also already have plans for two Veterans parks in Matthews.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by:

Charleen Thompson, Secretary